

**Commission on Aging  
Thursday, March 24, 2022  
Minutes**

**Welcome—Barbara Selter, Chair**

Roll Call/Attendee Introductions

**COMMISSIONERS**

Neal Brown  
Virginia Cain  
Betsy Carrier  
Jean Dinwiddie  
Joyce Dubow  
David Engel  
Nkiru J. Ezeani  
Dr. Arunima Ghosh  
Mona Y. Grieser  
Morris Klein  
Kendell Matthews  
Helen Pross (Laurie)  
Edgar Rivas  
Beverly Rollins  
Barbara Selter  
Mary Sweeney  
Hillery Tumba  
Marsha Weber  
T. Ryan Wilson  
Arthur Williams

**Absent**

Wayne Berman  
Nanine Meiklejohn  
Rev. Dr. Ruby Moon  
Sibo Ncube  
Karon Phillip  
Kate Smith  
Tho Tran  
Janice Zalen

**Alumni**

Austin Heyman  
Chuck Kaffman \*

**Liaison**

Denise Isreal, Dept. of Transportation  
Phoebe Shih, Asian American Health Initiative

**Staff**

Odile Brunetto, Ed. D., Aging and Disability Services, DHHS  
Patrice L. McGhee, DPA Area Agency on Aging, Aging and Disability  
Shawn Brennan, Department of Health & Human Services Transportation & Mobility and COA  
Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow  
Tremayne Jones, Aging & Disability Services, DHH

**Guest**

Ben Marcantonio, Chief Operating Officer, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

**AAA Director updates – Dr. Patrice McGhee, Director Area Agencies on Aging CE FY23 Proposed Budget:**

Aging and Disability Services: Adds 1 position for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program due to increased caseloads; 1 Community Support Network administrative position to support the Developmental Disability Services supplement which is proposed to increase by \$1.5 million; \$1.4 million supplemental funding to medical adult day care program; and 6 additional Adult Protective Services positions.

Transportation:

Supported by dedicated revenues from Transportation Network Company fees, Department of Transportation will increase subsidies for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; expand the Call-N-Ride program; provide new grants to nonprofit transportation service partners; implement a Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity training program for taxi drivers; and fund accessible transportation initiatives by other County government departments, including a new zero-emission bus for the Department of Recreation to provide direct transportation to and from the County's senior centers..

Recreation: Funds staff for the Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatics Center, which will open mid-year.

HCBS Worksource Task Force: Shawn will share a document about it via email. Dr. Monique Davis of Montgomery College and Cynthia Grissom of WorkSource Montgomery are co-chairs, and there are more than 20 stakeholders participating. Asha Hamilton will be A&D Staff Liaison and Patrice will serve on the Task Force as well. Invitations were sent out yesterday. The first meeting is on 3/31.

AAA Vacancies: CERS Nurse Manager posting just closed; 4 Community Health Nurse positions; Caregiver Manager posting will be up in next few weeks. Long Term Care Ombudsman—one position.

Communities for Life (CFL): Governor budget includes \$600K for CFL. Medicaid is separately providing \$2.8m over 3 years to subsidize membership for 12,000 seniors (\$600/year over 3 years). MC has a CFL program, but it is not yet operational. Partners in Care, the organization running CFL, is hiring staff. A&D has been communicating with Partners in Care. Eddie: Any funding for villages as passed legislation required? Nobody knows, it seems.

**Presentation on Hospice/Palliative Care – Ben Marcantonio, Chief Operating Officer, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.**

Mr. Marcantonio gave background history of the ways various cultures prepared for the end of life. In the eighties a shift in pain treatment came about using opioids and the Hospice/Palliative Care, multidiscipline model was developed.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with serious illness. This type of care provides relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness. Goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the Family. Palliative care is provided by a special trained team of doctors, nurses and others specialist who work with a patient to provide a layer of support based on the need of a patient not the patient prognosis. They treat patients suffering from symptoms such as cancer, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney disease, dementia, and many more.

Hospice care is a form of palliative care focusing on the terminally ill. To qualify for hospice you must have a medical prognosis of less than six months to live. In this care there is an interdisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, social workers, chaplains, hospice aides. They accompany the patient and family through the end-of-life process with compassion, collaboration, and respect.

Hospice/Palliative Care Link: insert

### Commission on Aging Business

- Approval of February minutes  
February minutes were approved.
- Budget Report  
David reported checking account balance \$ 4,745.11.
- Chairman's Report  
Barbara reported there was no update on the ARPA funding. The County Executive budget was very favorable for older adult. She emailed commissioners the Montgomery County Services for Seniors, a budget document which outlines all the funding for services available to older adults.

County Executive's Home and Community Based Services Workforce Taskforce on Home and Community Based Services, Barbara and Eddie are members of the taskforce. The taskforce will meet on, March 31 and they will report back to the group. Shawn will provide the one-page workforce taskforce document.

Community for Life program: Wayne and Mary met with a Partners in Care staff member to discuss the roll out of the CFL model in Montgomery County. Apparently, it will start in the Damascus area. CFL has been funded by the State. The service fee is unclear. Barbara will contact the program director for clarification. She recommended that this is a program we need to keep our eyes on.

The chair report on the Community for Life Award: Eddie and Wayne are spearheading this project. Thus far they have two nominees, and a selection committee. The award will be presented at the Public Forum.

- Report from Public Forum Working Committee- Jean , Marsha  
They are making excellent progress for the in-person event: have speakers; vignettes are in process; , sent out announcements to the community. Also, they will schedule a meeting with the speakers to discuss and understand their role. They suggested that commissioners register for the event and sign-up for various tasks. Shawn reported to date 72 people have registered for the event. Question Covid back up plan. The plan is taping the event and have it on Zoom.
- Request for volunteers for COA Liaisons to other commissions/boards  
Mental Health, Human Rights – see attached charts with meeting frequency  
Barbara asked for volunteers, as liaisons to other commissions/ boards  
Several commissioners volunteered:  
Mental Health Advisory Board- *Laurie Pross will attend meeting when there is interest on both sides*  
Human Rights - *Laurie Pross will only serve as translator for Russian*  
End of Life Coalition - Laurie Pross  
Commission on People with Disabilities- *Hillary pending the timeframe*  
Commission on Health- Betsy Carrier  
Transportation -Wayne  
Recreation and Parks Advisory Board- Kendell

- Update on additional County Council contacts  
The EC agreed to resume this discussion after Primary Elections. A commissioner suggested meeting with council members for coffee. If one meets with a council member in a social setting be, you are not representing the Commission on Aging but meeting as an individual.
- Process for April Visits with County Council Members  
It is the expectation that every commissioner sign up for at least one meeting but no more than three. Shawn informed the group to sign up for county council member visits using SignUpGenius. Several commissioners have signed up. The meetings will be held April 6- April 14. It was suggested that new commissioners meet with an experienced commissioner for your first meeting. Council member Glass is the only in- person visit. Zoom links for the meetings will be sent by the county council aides to commissioners in some cases. Tremayne will send out Briefing Book link to commissioners. Ryan and Morris are working on talking points.
- Health and Wellness- Marsha, Neal  
The new topic and focus will be on planning for life transition as we age. Looking at medical needs, wills, estate planning, materials, and products that people can use to discuss with family. April 5th meeting will be Life Management Planning.
- Aging in Community- Wayne, Mary  
The topic of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was Design for Life , Mona and Betsy gave an overview of the Habitat for Humanity home repair services for low-income older adults. This program is for weatherization, repairs and making the home accessible. Mona crafted an advocacy letter for housing renovations. Other topics: 50+ in Montgomery County program, Thrive 2050 input and advocacy.
- Public Policy- Ryan  
Ryan report that they have asked co-chairs for talking points for the upcoming county council meeting visits. Will get the talking out to commissioners next week. Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> is the crossover day for bills. Special thank you to commissioners who wrote letters. In the future when a commissioner writes a letter, put out the bill link with the letter. All letters should come to the Public Policy first for review before they are sent to commissioners for approval.
- Communication- Jean, Beverly  
The focus for the April meeting will be Staying Safe in your Home. Jim Resnick from safety will be the guest. They have been brainstorming a new idea CoA Ambassador program. Suggest the County plan a Senior Summit with Age Friendly Workgroup leaders and Thrive 2050. Number of individuals who viewed 50+ on YouTube on topics: VtV =?, WAVE= 90 and The Villages =263.
- Feedback from Art Williams  
Odessa Shannon was inducted in the Woman Hall of Fame. He has a beautiful crystal vase given by the governor in honor of Ms. Shannon. Montgomery County Public School named a school in honor of Odessa Shannon.

#### New Business –

- Marcia – Age Friendly will work with Secretary Rona Kramer in April. Austin inquired about Senior Fellow staff position and Age Friendly Summit.
- Shawn: Regarding the COA website, committees are not posting agendas and minutes in a timely manner per the Maryland Open Meeting Act. Agendas should be posted the week before the meeting and minutes post after meeting. Minutes are

missing for 2021 from committees. Send your minutes and agendas to Tremayne. Eddie we should agree to approve all minutes for committees.

- Eddie recommended that the focus for September be Latino Month, Latino Health Initiative, 50+ to focus on Latino.

#### Action Items

- 2022 list Non- profit Grants for older adults- Shawn
- One pager Workforce Taskforce- Shawn
- 2021 monthly agendas and minutes send Tremayne - Committee Co-Chairs
- Briefing Book link to Commissioners- Tremayne
- Talking points to commissioners- Ryan, Morris
- CFL fee/fees for older adults- Barbara

Adjourn: 11:50 am

#### NOTE: Invited Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- April 28, 2022- Aging Life Care Management – Susy Murphy, Debra Levy Eldercare Associates
- May 26, 2022 – Phoebe Shih, Asian American Health Program - Building Bridges: Improving Cultural Competency with Asian Americans
- June 23, 2022 – Budget Priorities of County Council and County Government – Gabe Albornoz, Jennifer Bryant, and Essie McGuire